

School spotlight

Advertisement feature

# Women of the future shaped at Davison, where girls can Thrive, Shine, Excel and Flourish

Once a Davison Girl, always a Davison girl is the mantra of popular school whose history dates back more than 200 years

A school which successfully engages with students to bring about high academic attainment and progress, while enriching their personal development and encouraging their wellbeing – welcome to Davison CE High School for Girls.

With its successful history dating back more than 200 years, Davison was delighted to be graded as an Outstanding school in September, 2016, following its statutory Church of England (SIAMS) Diocesan Inspection.

The more recent Ofsted inspection noted that 'the atmosphere in Davison CE High School for Girls is one of calm purpose and enjoyment of learning. The behaviour of pupils in lessons and around the school is exemplary. They are kind and respectful towards each other and their teachers'.

The school, in Selborne Road, Worthing, prides itself on providing a happy and supportive environment where more than 1,300 girls can develop into independent, open-minded learners and thinkers. The school is not only committed to offering its girls a varied, personalised curriculum, but also to transforming them into inspirational and responsible citizens. Girls are extremely proud to be part of the 'Once a Davison Girl, Always a Davison Girl' family.

This summer, 79 per cent of students achieved a grade 4 or higher in English and maths; 63 per cent gained a grade 5 or higher in English and maths; and the Attainment 8 figure was 57.4 per cent. The last externally moderated GCSE series (2019) resulted in Davison gaining the highest Attainment 8 score in West Sussex (56.4) and the second highest 'Progress 8' score in the country (+0.6).

The Davison English team is driven by creativity and an ability to cultivate a love of reading and writing, evidenced by the continuing success in their English Language and Literature. GCSE results, which remain

well above the national average. The department runs regular trips to enrich the study of classroom texts and last year took year-ten students to see a production of Macbeth at the Chichester Festival Theatre and year-11 students to see Macbeth at the Globe in London.

Girls also have an opportunity to take part in regular creative writing competitions and many have had poetry and short stories published in the Young Writers compilations.

Davison is passionate about STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Maths – regularly participating in competitions and inspiring young engineers of the future.

In Key Stage 3, young scientists develop a deep understanding of scientific ideas in biology, chemistry and physics through engaging lessons, with an emphasis on scientific enquiry.

In Key Stage 4, students deepen their knowledge and skills by working like real scientists.

Davison wants all students to feel inspired and challenged by science and its achievements.

The art department worked on an inspirational project called 'Sea, Shoots & Shores', which used photography to explore issues around plastic pollution and marine conservation.

A selection of the work can be previewed at <https://photoworks.org.uk/seas-shoots-and-shores>

In maths, students compete annually in the UKMT Individual Maths Challenges, which are lively, intriguing multiple-choice question papers designed to stimulate an interest in maths.

In the intermediate maths challenge, girls achieved 23 bronze awards, nine silver, five gold and three girls were entered into the Olympiad Kangaroo.

Two year-ten teams were also entered into the Advanced Maths Support competition.

In the GCSEs this summer, 85 per cent of girls were awarded a level 4-plus; 64 per cent a level 5-plus and 26 per cent a level 7-plus.

Learning often goes beyond the classroom at Davison.

In July last year, 18 students and three staff members adventured to Ghana to work with the Grace Methodist Preparatory School.

The two-week adventure in Ghana was the culmination of two years' hard work fundraising to be on the trip. Students raised money in a variety of ways, from tea mornings and curry nights to walking the entirety of the South Downs Way in one go.

While in Ghana, the staff took a backward step and handed over the running of the trip to Davison's Ghana Girls. Members of the team took turns completing daily tasks such as cooking on an open coal fire for 22 people, shopping at the local street market, ensuring they were living within a budget, promoting health, hygiene and wellbeing.

In July, 2021, a team from the school had planned to travel to Eswatini to improve school facilities for the betterment of education and the local community.

Davison is renowned for its fabulous music concerts, events and drama productions.

As part of the home learning for Key Stage 3, the RS department launched the NATURE Spirited Arts competition 2020.

This allowed the students to be creative in many ways, including art, poetry, dance, music, photography, sculpture and drama.

Gymnastics is a very popular club and the gymnasts always do well in all competitions. They travel far and wide across the county and southern area to compete and their success is down to their hard work and dedication to training. The Davison Gymnastics squad has been the highest achieving state school in the South East of England for the last three years. Netball, indoor athletics, badminton, new age curling – the list of sports enjoyed and successfully competed in is endless.

During lockdown, the PE department kept the girls as active as possible

Dance continues to be a beacon at Davison, attracting



and ran different challenges online, including the national 'Run 5, Donate £5, Nominate 5' challenge. This was a whole-school effort, where students and staff raised money for the Run for Heroes charity.

The school trophy cabinet is full to capacity after a year of many sporting achievements in the PE department and a record number of girls getting involved in clubs and teams, despite the short academic year. In January, Davison competed in the area schools' cross-country competition and won all three categories.

The school has a long-standing relationship with Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club and has a coach in weekly to train the girls. Last season, a large number of girls took part in club and school fixtures. And the U13 team finished second in the Albion County Cup competition.

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many talented girls who get involved in the Davison Dance group and take the opportunity to develop their passion for dance through a variety of external performances. This year's results were exceptional with a high proportion of girls achieving level 7s, 8s, and 9s and all achieving a 6 or above. Year nine performed their contemporary dance called 'Keeping Your Head Up' at the University of Brighton. Nearly 150 students performed in the year 8 inter-form dance event at Worthing Pavilion, which is a great opportunity for them to perform on a professional stage.

■ Davison CE High School for Girls is excited about the launch of its new website. To see the school prospectus and to find out much more, visit [www.davison.w-sussex.sch.uk](http://www.davison.w-sussex.sch.uk) and follow [davisonhighschool](https://www.instagram.com/davisonhigh) on Instagram and [@davisonhigh](https://twitter.com/davisonhigh) on Twitter.



## A letter from the Headteacher

I see education as the key to unlocking the future potential of all our young learners and truly believe Davison offers this education within a caring and supportive ethos, underpinned by strong Christian values.

Our school has been the provider of choice for literally tens of thousands of girls over more than 200 years.

We do not blindly bow to the latest accountability measures or squeeze our curriculum, at the detriment of some subjects, merely to optimise our performance in examinations.

Quite simply, ensuring our children are healthy, confident, happy and engaged is more important to us than anything else.

Achieving this ensures that success follows.

In terms of success, I am delighted to report that the most recent, externally validated examination results for the 2019 examination series, place Davison as highest achieving school in the whole of West Sussex for Attainment, and second highest in the county for Progress.

Although the 2020 GCSE results were not able to be externally validated due to the cancellation of external exams, the results achieved showcase our school as a very high-achieving school who had five years to work with our students for the first time.

The following students achieved particularly strong

results. Maddie Tucker, Katie Mills, Lauren Faithful, Emma Worthley and Felicity McGregor achieved eight or more grade 9s.

Maddie Tucker, Katie Mills, Lauren Faithful, Emma Worthley, Felicity McGregor, Olivia McKenna, Scarlet Kilford, Grace Ford, Ella Dalimore, Libby Coppin, Emily Blofeld, Sophie Rayner, Sophie Currell, Anna Owen, Eleanor Vyse and Mia Bishop achieved five or more grade 9s.

We believe that these results have been achieved through a very committed approach which ensures that each child can flourish under the care, support and guidance of our dedicated staff.

Chris Keatina, Headteacher



## Davison – Where Girls Can, despite lockdown challenges

Davison CE High School for Girls prides itself on preparing women of the future, with a broad knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

The careers programme at Davison addresses the needs of all pupils, offering opportunities to experience workplaces, meet employers, encounter higher and further education and receive guidance.

In March, the whole school celebrated National Careers Week, welcoming in universities, businesses and specialists. Ordinarily, the school runs trips to workplace settings. This year, it will find different ways to continue these links and provide engaging encounters with companies for students.

At the beginning of March, Davison welcomed new wellbeing lead Charlotte Jameson to the family. With a global pandemic around the corner, it proved to be a very timely appointment. It is an organically evolving role as the school responds to the changing and varied needs of all the school community. An in-depth survey gave everyone the opportunity to share their voice.

During lockdown, hand-made and personalised wooden wellbeing boxes were filled and delivered

to many students at home. They were filled with treats, resources and activities to boost their mood and support their wellbeing.

Students have dedicated email addresses they know they can write to for support with their wellbeing, or for prayer should they need it. They are confident there are many adults in school they can speak to.

Mrs Jameson has planned sessions for form tutors to share with their forms, promoting the five ways to wellbeing and reminding them of the network of support available to them as they transitioned back to school.

The design and technology department has been incredibly busy this year problem solving and engineering products to make people's lives safer, happier and easier during these worrying times.

The department made vital PPE for front line workers, including 500 masks, 50 scrub hats, 200 pairs of scrubs and 150 visors. Most of the materials used were ethically sourced and repurposed.

Jane Green, assistant head of design technology and lead tutor for the Gold Family, was recently nominated for a Sussex Teacher of the Year Award – and won!

Mrs Green is now the very proud recipient of the STEM Worthing Region Award.

Mrs Green said: "The award I raise in praise on the shoulders of all the teachers and staff who have supported me, guided me and inspired me over the years to make me the teacher I am today."

Davison students are provided with opportunities and learning experiences for active citizenship, which is a valued strength of the school.

It actively seeks out to support initiatives which benefit the community organisations at home and further afield. Charities supported include the Chantonsbury Community Play Scheme and Mencap, Macmillan coffee morning, the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal, Turning Tides homeless charity and Marie Curie.

The school stages many events each year, including an annual school talent show called ENCORE and Carols in the Community.

During lockdown, the school's community spirit did not falter. The school was involved in a number of projects, including baking cakes and delivering them to friends and family's doorsteps. A grand total of £635 was raised for Chestnut Tree House.